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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*Helping School Children: Suggestions for Efficient Co-operation with the Public Schools.* By ELSA DENISON. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1912. Pp. xxii+352.

In this carefully compiled volume, which draws its facts from hundreds of sources, Miss Denison shows the channels through which the general public in America expends voluntarily some \$10,000,000 annually by way of supplementing the so-called regular work of the public schools. The book is of the type already made familiar by Perry's *Wider Use of the School Plant*; the scope, however, is much wider, inasmuch as it includes the activities of all sorts of supplementary educational agencies outside of the school plant as well. While many of the facts have already appeared in periodical literature and non-professional publications, it is the first appearance for most of them in sifted, balanced form in a carefully compiled educational volume. The work ought to be widely read.

The book enumerates the multitude of things that can be done for schools by parents and parents' associations, mothers' clubs, women's clubs, physicians, dentists, churches, business men's organizations, civic leagues, philanthropic bequests, libraries, newspapers, together with many other voluntary organizations of various types; and shows through concrete examples just how the work may be done, and the kind of results that may be expected.

The book shows that the importance of these forms of voluntary assistance is not to be measured by the amount of money expended. The \$10,000,000 is only about 2 per cent of the \$450,000,000 annually expended on public education—a relatively insignificant amount. Its importance is not so much in what it purchases as in the interest aroused in the community in the movements so fostered, an interest which results in large annual increases in the regular school budget.

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*Educational Administration: Quantitative Studies.* By GEORGE DRAYTON STRAYER and EDWARD L. THORNDIKE. New York: Macmillan, 1913. Pp. xii+392. \$2.00 net.

One of the large obstacles to progress in educational thought of the scientific type is the relative inaccessibility of its literature. It is to be found scattered through hundreds of books, bulletins, monographs, educational journals, and reports of countless organizations. It is time that this literature be sifted and summarized so that the best of all be made accessible to all, and the 95 per cent of repetitious matter be discarded.

Even the notable series of "Contributions to Education" put out at Columbia University is mostly inaccessible to all except those in immediate contact with large educational libraries; and even then they can be used only for individual library

reference, and not for class use, where they are most needed, owing to the almost universal lack of duplicate copies, and the impossibility of the students' purchasing so many expensive monographs.

In this volume, Professors Strayer and Thorndike have sifted out the materials of essential value that relate to educational administration from about a score of these monographs, and have presented them in so compact a compass that every educational administrator can have a copy for his desk, and in such a form, too, that the busy man will have time to read it. It permits also an effective use of these materials for class discussion, since the book can be in the hands of the students as a reference text.

For the most part, the volume does not attempt to show the relations of the various topics discussed to the field of education in general, or to show general administrative perspective. It is expected that the educational administrator is already familiar with these matters, and that where the book is used as a text, comment and perspective will be supplied by lectures and readings from other books already in the field. The volume consistently adheres to its plan of presenting only the essentials of the monographs; and it makes the valuable suggestion, which we hope will be heeded, "that similar volumes will be prepared adapting for students' use the work done by other natural groups of investigators."

Five kinds of topics are discussed. Part I presents "Studies of the Students": enrolment and attendance as related to ages and grades, elimination, promotion, retardation, and variations among students. Part II is made up of "Studies of the Teaching Staff": causes and conditions of teaching efficiency, social and economic status, special supervision, secondary teachers, and the influence of sex balance upon enrolment. Part III discusses the "Organization of Schools and Courses of Study": the elementary school curriculum, relation of size of school to effectiveness, the inefficiency of college entrance examinations, studies actually taken for the A.B. degree. Part IV considers "Means of Measuring Educational Products": scales in handwriting, composition, and arithmetic, achievements, school records and reports. Part V presents studies of "School Finance": city school expenditures, relation of these expenditures to other municipal expenditures, and the apportionment of school funds.

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*The Social Factors Affecting Special Supervision in the Public Schools of the United States.* By WALTER ALBERT JESSUP. New York: Teachers College, Columbia University, 1911. Pp. viii+124.

Where education consciously attempts to prepare for active life in the world of affairs, schools find their tasks determined by the needs of this outside world. But the latter is always changing. For some time it has been growing more complicated. This results, on the one hand, in heavier demands upon the schools in subjects already included; and on the other hand in the inclusion of many things that hitherto were satisfactorily taken care of in extra-scholastic ways. Mr. Jessup's study covers this second aspect of growth of the curricula. It is a study of the genesis of the newer subjects in our public-school curricula, and of certain aspects of the present situation as regards these subjects. The subjects considered are music, drawing, manual training, domestic science, physical education, and penmanship.